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FACULTY SENATE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MINUTES
NOVEMBER 21, 2011 3:00 P.M.
Champ Hall Conference Room

Present: Glenn McEvoy (Chair), Alan Blackstock, Richard Clement, Renee Galliher, Doug Jackson-Smith (excused-Jeff Smitten sub), Yanghee Kim, Pam Miller, Mike Parent (excused), Robert Schmidt, Flora Shrode, Blake Tullis, Dave Wallace, Ralph Whitesides, President Stan Albrecht (Ex-Officio) (excused), Provost Ray Coward (Ex-Officio) (excused), Vincent Wickwar (Past President), Joan Kleinke (Exec. Sec.), Marilyn Atkinson (Assistant)
Guests: Ed Reeve, John Mortensen, Terry Peak, Norm Jones

Glenn McEvoy called the meeting to order at 3:02 p.m.

Approval of Minutes

Vince Wickwar made a motion to approve the minutes of October 17, 2011. The motion was seconded by Robert Schmidt and passed unanimously.

Announcements

Brown Bag Lunch with the President & Provost. The next Brown Bag Lunch will be Friday, December 9th at 12:00 noon in Champ Hall.

University Business - President Albrecht and Provost Coward. No University Business was presented as the President and Provost were out of town.

Information Items

ASUSU Report – Erik Mikkelsen. Erik Mikkelsen was not in attendance. The report will be added to the December FSEC agenda.

Retention and Student Success Report – John Mortensen. As a result of the recent budget cuts and restructuring, the Office of Retention and Student Success was dissolved. John Mortensen will now have the responsibility for retention and student success. The goal is to continue to build on the successful programs the Office had implemented. John highlighted many goals from the report including increasing retention to 76% by 2016. Some of the two year program data reflected in the report are not considered reliable at this time. These data largely reflect programs offered by USU Eastern and there is not enough historical data in Banner for these programs yet. There is excitement regarding a new degree audit tool that students and advisors will be able to use to help track and plan students' courses of study and help them understand what requirements are left to fill for graduation. John is also expecting to add advisor assignments in Banner so students will know immediately who their advisors are and how to contact them.

Renee Galliher moved to place the report on the consent agenda and Yanghee Kim seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

New Business

EPC Items – Ed Reeve. There was no Academic Standards Report and no General Education sub-committee report this month. There were many name change and specialization proposals for EPC to consider and approve.

A motion was made to place the report as an action item on the Faculty Senate agenda by Vince Wickwar and seconded by Flora Shrode. The motion passed unanimously.

PRPC Section 402.3.2 and 402.3.4 Faculty Senate Vacancies – Terry Peak. PRPC revised wording to make it clearer that a documented effort to locate an alternate to attend meetings would be enough to avoid being removed from the senate. Vince Wickwar asked if the words "from Faculty Senate" be added after resigns in item number (1) to eliminate confusion about resigning from the university. The FSEC members agreed to the change. With this minor change included, a motion to place this on the Senate agenda as an action item for a first reading was made by Robert Schmidt and seconded by Vince Wickwar. The motion passed unanimously.

Presidential Task Force on Curriculum – Norm Jones. Norm Jones chairs the Presidential Task Force on Curriculum which is addressing the evolving crisis in the core curriculum and how to provide the core classes to a very large and growing student body. There is a lot of pressure to see that students graduate in a timely fashion, that there is access for them, that the university provides quality degree programs, and that general education is done more cost effectively than it has been in the past. The task force has been evaluating the core curriculum and sees where the system can improve in efficiency and quality. The task force has developed recommendations to accomplish these goals and these goals are outlined in the report attached to the meeting agenda. Several questions were raised from an advisors point of view about how this will affect students' class schedules and education plans. Norm indicated that the task force is still in an information gathering stage and would like to have senators' feedback, ideas, reactions and options on their work so far.

A motion to present the report as an information item was made by Yanghee Kim and seconded by Vince Wickwar. The motion passed unanimously.

External Review Letters – Glenn McEvoy. As the code was revised last year to integrate CEU, section 405.7 of the code dealing with external review letters was postponed for review until this year. The pertinent issue is that there is a growing number of faculty for whom research is a very small part--or not a part--of their role statements. The code, in dealing with promotion and tenure reviews, currently requires external letters for research activities only. The suggestion has been made that external reviewers evaluate teaching for faculty with larger teaching than research roles. A draft proposal was forwarded to the Provost who passed it along to the Deans. The Deans have submitted a recommended revision to the Faculty Senate changing the wording to read that external reviewers evaluate "performance, record and accomplishments." The FSEC members discussed this issue and alternatives at length and decided that Glenn McEvoy and Vince Wickwar will attend the PRPC meeting on November 29th to continue the discussion.

A motion to move the discussion of external peer review letters to PRPC was made by Robert Schmidt and seconded by Yanghee Kim. The motion passed unanimously.

Open Access – Glenn McEvoy. Richard Clement asked for time in the December FSEC meeting to make a presentation on Open Access.

Results of Faculty Forum – Glenn McEvoy. The Faculty Forum was held November 7, 2011 and items from the Forum agenda below will be handled individually in the following manner:

- Five year post tenure review process. The Provost has directed that a task force be formed as quickly as possible to assess the enforcement of the policy around campus. Glenn McEvoy and Renee Galliher will both serve on the task force.
- Faculty involvement with campus design planning. The concern expressed during the Forum was in relation to the new student recreation center and its funding and loss of space for HPER faculty. Glenn suggested he would talk with the Provost about UPRPC's involvement in the planning of the center and faculty participation in UPRPC.
- Overload compensation. Faculty comments suggested considerable confusion and some angst around the university associated with the current policy on overloads. Glenn McEvoy suggested Provost Coward might come to the FS meeting in January to clarify past and current enforcement of the policy found in Section 376 of the Code and the extent to which individual colleges and units may make policy choices that are more restrictive than the Code (e.g., prohibit overload compensation altogether rather than adhere to the 20% upper limit provided in policy 376). Ralph Whitesides made a motion to invite Provost Coward to the January 9th FS meeting and Vince Wickwar seconded. The motion passed.
- Faculty compensation. There were no comments on this item from faculty during the Forum meeting.
- Effective integration of USU Eastern faculty with their home departments. Glenn McEvoy and Pam Miller will discuss this problem further, and then Glenn will follow-up with the Provost.

Adjournment

Robert Schmidt moved to adjourn the meeting, Ralph Whitesides seconded. The meeting adjourned at 5:05 p.m.

Minutes Submitted by: Joan Kleinke, Faculty Senate Executive Secretary, 797-1776